



Visionering Wichita
Mentoring Alliance Meeting
January 21, 2010
Meeting Notes

Attendees: Terry Behrendt, Charles Coleman, Deidre Edwards, Judith Wencel, Felecia Norris, Patty Gnefkow, Teresa Hatfield, Mark Eby, Glenda Kruse, Lyndon Drew, Jessica Noble (via phone)

September Minutes

The September minutes were approved to be posted on the Visionering website.

Regional DropIn Summit Update

Jessica Noble gave an update on the regional meetings. In September regional pre-summit meetings were held to identify what are the challenges, what are the successes and what do we need to learn around the issue of high school dropouts. This information was used to frame the state-wide summit. The regional post-summit meetings are prioritizing the challenges then developing goals, objectives and strategies. 6 of 8 regional post summits have been completed with over 100 attending. This information will feed into the state-wide action plan.

Common Themes:

- Parental involvement & support was the #1 or #2 issue for each region
- Wichita & Garden City identified teen pregnancy and substance abuse
- Wichita, South Central, South East & Lawrence identified youth don't see relevance to their education

Kansas is one of four states chosen by America's Promise to participate in two technical assistance field trips. During this trip attendees will learn from successful programs and learn how to implement the state action plan.

Kansas Mentors Update

Kansas Mentors will introduce a resolution in the Kansas House and Senate January 12th for January's National Mentoring Month. This project came out of their efforts to think more strategically with all of their focus groups and Council of Mentoring providers. Several mentoring programs will be present as well as Coach Snyder.

Sustaining Mentoring Organizations

Goodwill Industries, Goodwill GoodGuides

- They have started a mentoring program
- Have a grant focusing on youth mentoring and family strengthening
- They want to partner with other youth organizations with a waiting list
- Jan 11 – was their official kick-off
- Feb 12 – will host a master social event at 1642 W Douglas from 5 – 6:30 p.m.

Success in the Middle

- Currently working with 12 schools, 4 sites near WSU
- 200th volunteer completed their on-line form
- Just passed training of 500th volunteer
- January focus is assessment preparation

Wichita Police Department

- Youth involvement is encouraged
- Employees can flex their schedule in order to mentor
- They are involved in a variety of mentoring programs
- Background checks for police officers to mentor
 - Officers see this as an issue
 - Suggest mentoring organizations do a random survey about what can be done to make the process easier/more convenient

Compeer

- 25 new mentors and matches last quarter
- They also match adults to mentors
 - There is currently an outreach program at the overflow shelters & United Methodist Open Door
- A letter to the editor from one of their board members resulted in some calls
- They have had calls as a result of United Way

Big Brother Big Sisters

- Finished year serving 1800 kids in Sedgwick County
- Formed a partnership with Maize High School – had more mentors than kids!
- Editorial in the Eagle today, perspective from the adult as well as the child
- Wichita Mentors billboard is still up

RSVP

- They will have an article on the mental health benefits of mentoring in the February issue of Healthy Living

Catholic Charities Foster Grandparents Program

- Change in age eligibility, is now 55 and older
- They have lost some sites for their mentors
- They are concerned about summer sites & are interested in partnering with organizations that have summer activities

Maize High School

- Will have a volunteer fair in April
- Seniors are required to have 10 hours of community service

Upcoming Meetings

Alliance Meeting:

March 4, 8:00 a.m., Wichita Metro Chamber of Commerce.

Agenda: Donovan Karber & Patty Gnefkow will present information on the Kansas Civic Leadership Lab.